

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention relates to the novel finding that that elevated plasma levels of  $\gamma A/\gamma'$  are an independent risk factor for coronary artery disease. The invention therefore includes a method and diagnostic kit for the  
5 detection of  $\gamma A/\gamma'$  levels in patients. The kit preferably contains an antibody molecule or fragment thereof that is capable of specifically immunoreacting with a binding site in  $\gamma A/\gamma'$ . Most preferably, the monoclonal antibody is capable of immunoreacting with the twenty carboxyl terminal amino acids of the  $\gamma'$  chain of  $\gamma A/\gamma'$ .

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